

OPEN LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER, OPPOSITION LEADER, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH

6th August 2018

Dear Prime Minister, Mr Corbyn, Foreign Secretary Hunt and Secretary of State Hancock,

We, the undersigned believe *Real Bodies: The Exhibition* showing at Birmingham's NEC should be shut down immediately and thoroughly investigated for the following reasons:

1. The exhibition presenters, Imagine Exhibitions have confirmed that the display, consisting of 20 whole human cadavers and over 200 human organs, human foetuses and body parts, are sourced from China and are presented without any consent documents and identification papers to confirm the origins of the deceased. The CEO of Imagine admitted there is 'no documentation' to prove their identities or that they agreed to donate their bodies after death¹.

2. The non-consensual display of human remains is in violation of the Human Tissue Act (2004), as well as the spirit in which it was created. The Human Tissue Authority's *Guidance for Professionals* states that 'Removing, storing or using human tissue for Scheduled Purposes without appropriate consent' is an offence under the Human Tissue Act (2004)². Schedule 1 of the Act also clearly states that the '*Purposes Requiring Consent*' includes both '*displays*' (Sch. 1 para. 5), and '*Education or training relating to human health*' (Sch. 1 para. 9)³

Commercial operations that Import human remains should also be required to abide by these standards to ensure that trafficked human bodies are not permitted to enter, and be displayed, in the UK.

3. Using human organs and tissues without consent for financial profit is the antithesis of ethical and legal practice as set out in the Declaration of Istanbul on Organ Trafficking and Transplantation and the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs.

4. The public display of the deceased, including foetuses of varying gestation times, without confirmed consent is a gross violation of human rights, dignity and ethics, which should not be permitted on the grounds of 'art' or 'education.'

5. The bodies and organs reportedly come from Dalian, China and were sourced from the Dalian Public Security Bureau/Police, according to the CEO of Imagine Exhibitions⁴.

6. This trade in human bodies is not only facilitated by the Chinese Communist regime's extensive use of the death penalty but also by the incarceration of other 'unwanted' prisoners in Chinese detention facilities.

7. Investigative reports⁵ have concluded that bodies sourced from Dalian and used in plastination exhibits include prisoners of conscience detained in the vast prison/ labour camp compounds within close proximity to the Dalian plastination facility. The prisoners of conscience are primarily, but not only, practitioners of the spiritually based set of exercises, Falun Gong. Dalian is an epicentre of organ transplant activity, plastination and repression of Falun Gong⁶

¹ <https://www.news.com.au/finance/business/other-industries/calls-to-close-real-bodies-exhibition-over-claims-corpse-are-murdered-chinese-prisoners/news-story/6c2ce76f19f43bed726b396cbeef48f1>

² <https://www.hta.gov.uk/policies/human-tissue-act-2004>

³ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/30/schedule/1>

⁴ <http://archive.li/BpWlJ>

⁵ <https://www.weeklystandard.com/ethan-gutmann/bodies-at-an-exhibition>

<https://www.upholdjustice.org/node/236>

<http://www.spiegel.de/spiegel/print/d-29725567.html>

⁶ <http://en.minghui.org/html/articles/2006/8/26/77343.html> <http://en.minghui.org/emh/articles/2006/7/12/75392p.html>

8. Plastinated body exhibitions from China **have been banned** in a growing number of places around the world, including in Israel⁷, France⁸, Hawaii⁹ and various cities in the US. The Czech Republic¹⁰ changed its laws on 7th July 2017, meaning such an exhibition would no longer be allowed to enter its country without written consent from the deceased.

9. Commercial profit should not outweigh the gross violation of basic human dignity present in this exhibition.

We believe that this exhibition encroaches on our UK values and law and should be stopped. DNA tests should also be carried out so the family identifications can be made in the future.¹¹ We also urge the Government to ensure that appropriate legislations are in place so that such exhibits cannot be freely imported into the UK.

Yours sincerely,

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Tom Brake MP

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⁷ <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/160245>

⁸ <http://www.france24.com/en/20100917-our-body-controversial-exhibition-france-appeal-court-ban-china-prisons-justice-arts>

⁹ <http://lrbhawaii.org/legis09/passed09.pdf>

¹⁰ <http://www.epochtimes.cz/2017082223751/End-To-Dead-Bodies-Exhibitions-in-Czech-Republic.-New-Law-Requires-Deceaseds-Consent.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/01/world/europe/prague-czech-republic-body-the-exhibition.html>

¹¹ <https://www.weeklystandard.com/ethan-gutmann/bodies-at-an-exhibition>

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